

14 DEC 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Walt Rostow Request for Study of North Vietnamese Manpower

1. At Walt Rostow's request we have undertaken to reassess the manpower situation in North Vietnam. An outline of the proposed study will be prepared by Friday and the final report will be submitted to Mr. Rostow during the first week of January.

2. The study will be a complete reassessment of North Vietnam's manpower resources and the manpower drain. It will include an analysis of the labor force; the impact of diversions to the military and war-related activities such as logistics and bomb damage repair; evidence of changes in mobilization programs and evaluation of reports of labor shortages. These factors will be evaluated to assess the current manpower situation within the existing ranges of estimates of North Vietnam's population. Finally, the North Vietnamese manpower situation will be compared with that in Germany during World War II in order to determine that point at which the manpower drain in North Vietnam might be regarded as critical.

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - DDF
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13 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Walt Rostow Request to DCI for Study of North Vietnamese Manpower

1. The DD/I called me this morning to state that Walt Rostow asked that the Director lay on a study which would take a "fresh look" at North Vietnamese manpower. Rostow has read our latest McNamara report, but is not convinced that North Vietnam is still in reasonably good shape on manpower because:

- a. The evidence that 13 year olds are being sent south,
- b. The age of men being called up -- Rostow mentioned 30 year olds,
- c. The Soviets and East Europeans have cited manpower shortages in North Vietnam (I'm not sure of this),
- d. There has been some discussion in the North Vietnamese press of shortages,

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2. Rostow further stated that there is often a wide gap between "formal availability" based on census studies and "actual availabilities" for military purposes. Cited Hitler's difficulties in World War II.

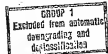
3. The DD/I asked us to look at the problem and let him know today when we could get out a quick study, since there is some urgency. The study should convey the "fresh look". I mentioned to him the fact that we could do something on Germany in World War II.

/s/

Deputy Director
Economic Research

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